

Message Text

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41

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 DRC-01 NSC-07 TRSE-00 SS-20

EB-11 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 COME-00

AGR-20 SR-02 ORM-03 IGA-02 /188 W

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R 101200Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7843

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 1786

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, XC, FI

SUBJECT: INDOCHINA DONOR'S MEETING

REF: STATE 192069

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SUMMARY: FINNS MAY OR MAY NOT ATTEND OCTOBER PARIS

INDONESIA DONOR'S GROUP MEETING. GOR PRELIMINARY POSITION IS NEGATIVE AND UNCHANGED FROM ATTITUDE EXPRESSED AT OCTOBER 1973 DONORS' GROUP MEETING. DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS SEEM TO BE DETERMINING FACTOR. END SUMMARY.

1. E/C COUNSELOR MADE REPRESENTATIONS REQUESTED REFTEL ON SEPT 9 TO AMBASSADOR AKE WIHTOL, HEAD OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION. ALL MAJOR POINTS IN REFTEL WERE MADE EXCEPT NO MENTION WAS MADE OF FACT THAT U.S. DOES NOT OPPOSE FORMATION OF DONORS' SUBGROUP FOR NORTH VIETNAM, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD NOT JOIN SUBGROUP. IT SEEMED, HOWEVER, THAT WIHTOL INFERRED THIS WAS OUR ATTITUDE FROM OTHER POINTS MADE DURING DISCUSSION.

2. WIHTOL SAID NORDICS HAD DECIDED INFORMALLY AT MEETING IN STOCKHOLM ABOUT WEEK AGO THAT THEY WOULD NOT DECIDE ON POLICIES IN RESPECT TO PARIS MEETING OCTOBER 17 UNTIL AFTER IBRD/IMF ANNUAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON SEPT 29-OCT 4, WHICH WOULD AFFORD OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE LATEST INFORMATION FROM IBRD/ADB SECRETARIAT ABOUT SITUATION IN INDOCHINA AND TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS.

3. WIHTOL VOLUNTEERED THAT FINNISH ATTITUDE REMAINED MUCH LIKE THAT OF SWEDEN. HE SAID OCT. 1973 MEETING FAILED MAINLY BECAUSE IT WAS HELD TOO SOON-I.E., THAT SITUATION IN INDOCHINA WAS NOT STABLE. FINLAND BELIEVES THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE CHANGE IN SITUATION SINCE THEN. THEREFORE, ALTHOUGH FINAL DECISION NOT YET MADE, FINLAND MIGHT WELL NOT ATTEND PARIS MEETING BUT WOULD PUBLICIZE ITS OPPOSITION TO FORMATION AT THIS TIME OF INDOCHINA DONORS' GROUP IN SOME MANNER. ALTERNATIVELY, FINLAND MIGHT DECIDE TO ATTEND PARIS MEETING BUT NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN DONOR GROUPS IF FORMED. FINNS IN FACT HAVE NO INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN LAOS GROUP EVEN LATER, AS THAT COUNTRY IS NEITHER PRESENT NOR POTENTIAL FINNISH AID RECIPIENT

4. WIHTOL POINTED OUT THAT FINLAND CONSIDERS VIETNAM, CONFIDENTIAL

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BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH, AS ONE OF FINLAND'S FOUR PRIORITY AID TARGETS. HOWEVER, IT ONLY RECOGNIZES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND THAT IS CURRENTLY ITS ONLY AID RECIPIENT THERE. IT CONSIDERS SOUTH VIETNAM A "SPLIT COUNTRY" WITH MAJOR POWERS BACKING EACH SIDE. FINLAND AS NEUTRAL NATION DOES NOT INTEND TO GET INVOLVED IN THIS BIG POWER CONFRONTATION BY GIVING AID TO EITHER SIDE. DOMESTIC POLITICAL GROUPS WATCH FINLAND'S ACTIONS IN

FOREIGN AID FIELD VERY CLOSELY. AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM IN PARTICULAR IS HOT POLITICAL ISSUE. SWEDEN IS IN SIMILAR SITUATION. NORWAY AS NEIGHBOR OF SWEDEN AND AS FELLOW EFTA MEMBER IS SUBJECT TO INFLUENCE FROM SWEDEN AS WELL AS SOME DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURE. DENMARK IS MORE LIKELY TO HAVE INDEPENDENT VIEWS, ESPECIALLY NOW THAT IT HAS JOINED EC.

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, WIHTOL SAID THAT IF FINLAND DID DECIDE TO PARTICIPATE IN OCTOBER PARIS MEETING, HE WOULD PROBABLY BE HEAD OF FINNISH DELEGATION. HE WILL ALSO BE ATTENDING PRIOR IBRD/IMF MEETING IN WASHINGTON. U.S. OFFICIALS MAY WISH TO MAKE FURTHER ATTEMPTS IN WASHINGTON TO WORK ON FINNS, PARTICULARLY MINISTER OF FINANCE JOHANNES VIROLAINEN, CENTRE PARTY LEADER AND HEAD OF THE FINNISH IBRD DELEGATION.
KREHBIEL

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